New C-W Animal Control facility nearing completion

❑ Officials expect to open site in industrial park within 60 days

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It's been a number of years since the combined Camas-Washougal Animal Control Facility was told to move out of their building at Fort James. In that time officials have tried to make arrangements with other community animal shelters to find a permanent place to house area lost dogs, ultimately deciding to build their own facility. A facility which should be open within the next 60 days.

The $150,000 facility, located at 27th Street and Index in Washougal, has 12 indoor stalls, seven outside stalls, and a large dog run in back so that the dogs can play and run freely. It is equipped to hold as many as 19 dogs in emergencies, and the animals can remain for three to five days before they are transported to the Vancouver Humane Society. The facility will also have portable kennels in anticipation of future expansion.

The facility has been under construction for the past two months, and according to Washougal Police Chief Robert Garwood, only a few small tasks must be completed before Animal Control can open it to the public. "My understanding is that we have to wait for the facility to be painted. They have to use a special paint that's been recommended by the humane society so that it won't make the animals sick," he said.

Garwood and other employees of the Washougal Police Department have been playing host to the two Animal Control officers, Myron Crumpacker and Richard Foster Sr., since they were told to vacate the Fort James property.

"We've enjoyed their company, but it can get pretty crowded," Garwood said.

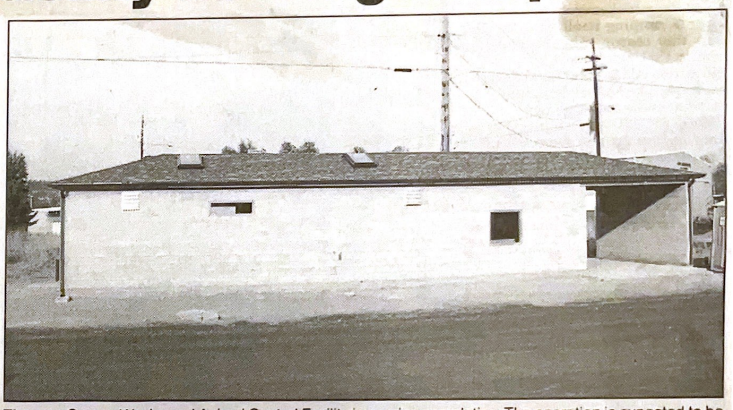
Although Camas and Washougal will split the cost of constructing the facility down the middle, it is still unclear how operating costs will be divvied up. Garwood hopes that some agreement can be made whereby the two cities will split the costs of kennel control, vehicles, and a myriad of other necessities which keep animal control facilities going.

Garwood said that in addition to providing better service to the community, the facility will also enable his employees to work more effectively.

"It's gonna be a huge plus for us because a lot of times we'll get called out for a loose dog call. After going through everything a guy can be gone for two hours," he said.

Garwood believes that little will change in regards to service once the facility opens. He does, however, feel that the efficiency level will increase dramatically. Animal Control personnel won't have to travel as far, and people in the community who've lost their pet won't have to drive to Vancouver in order to start their search.

"This is going to be a good thing for everyone," he said.



The new Camas-Washougal Animal Control Facility is nearing completion. The operation is expected to be up and running in the port industrial park within 60 days. Cost for construction of the facility is in the range of $150,000. *Staff photo by Stacy D. Stumbo.*

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